

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE LOSSES OF THE FRENCH ARMY AND OF FRANCE.

From the N. Y. Herald. From a summary made up by a war correspondent from the official reports at Berlin of the results of the astounding campaign from Saarbrück to Sedan, the following list appears as the losses of the French army in prisoners taken by the Germans:—

Table with 2 columns: Category (e.g., Officers, Privates, Captives, etc.) and Count. Total prisoners reported as 135,524.

Total prisoners, not reported as including wounded, 135,524. The killed and wounded of the French army, from Saarbrück to Sedan, from the same report and from other sources, may be estimated as within the mark as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Category (e.g., In the battles and retreat from Weissenburg, etc.) and Count. Total killed and wounded, 95,000.

And we have a grand total of 230,524 as the losses of the French army from Saarbrück to Sedan, in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Add the prisoners taken at Laon, Toul, and Strasburg, and this grand aggregate is swelled to 250,000 men.

The remainder of the regular standing army of 350,000 men, with which Napoleon entered into this war, is made up of the column of Bazaine, estimated at 70,000 men, cooped up in Metz; the detachment of Vinoy, escaping from Sedan to Paris, and the fugitive detachments, amounting to five or six thousand men, escaping from Sedan into the neutral territory of Belgium, where they were disarmed. We may say that of the original regular army of 350,000 men which Napoleon possessed when he opened this war at Saarbrück there are now (excluding Bazaine's army in Metz, which can be counted as prisoners), less than 50,000 able-bodied men remaining in the service of France.

The losses in warlike materials to the French are simply incalculable. They are officially reported as including 10,280 horses, to say nothing of the thousands of horses killed; 102 munitious, 887 field and fortress pieces of artillery, over 400 wagons and trains, several pontoon trains, military magazines, railway trains, with an incalculable quantity of supplies in man arms, the gleanings of all the battle fields and fortresses captured, ammunition, clothing, equipments, forage, and provisions. The French losses in the track of MacMahon's retreat from Worth to the Moselle are given officially as embracing two magazines, 10,000 woolen blankets, 40,000 cloths (bags, we suppose) of rice, coffee, sugar, large quantities of wine, rum, and tobacco, this latter article alone amounting to half a million of thalers, and tobacco is one of the prime necessities of a German army.

These are terrible losses, but still more terrible are the losses of France laid waste and of her suspended productive industry, and the loss of that military discipline, industry, and prestige which made France the arbiter and the French army the terror of the Continent. All this is gone, with the removal of that splendid standing army with which Louis Napoleon had counted upon a triumphant march to Berlin. The losses of Germany in killed and wounded in this war (the attacking party) have been much heavier than the French losses. King William has probably thus lost, from Saarbrück to the surrender of Strasburg, over 150,000 men; but he has still half a million and more of soldiers at his command of the same quality as his soldiers lost. In the outset the difference between him and Napoleon was the difference between a French standing army of 350,000 men, demoralized by a luxurious empire, and the vigorous armed nationality of United Germany of 700,000 soldiers, the best disciplined, armed and equipped, without exception, and the best commanded of any army in the world since the time of the first Napoleon.

Napoleon the Third has brought upon France all these heavy disasters, involving the loss of his position as an arbiter of Europe and the loss to France of her military fame and prestige, and what, worst of all, appears now to be inevitable, a humiliating confiscation of her Rhine frontier. But France, under the reviving inspiration of the republic, will fight to "the last ditch." This is her heroic resolution; but of what avail will be the fighting of her hastily collected raw troops against the disciplined and swarming German legions, widening their depredations for forage and provisions every day and more destructive to the subsistence of the country than a cloud of locusts? It appears to us that peace is the only way of safety to France from general devastation, famine and political and social chaos, and that peace is the solemn first duty of the great central powers in view of the general dangers threatened from a prolongation of this terrible war. Peace is especially the duty and the policy of England, looking to the menacing preparations of Russia for a descent upon Constantinople, the gateway of the East, and at the manifestations of British public sentiment in favor of a generous helping hand to the French republic in behalf of peace.

STRASBURG, METZ, AND PARIS.

From the N. Y. Times. While Strasburg held out, Alsace could not be said to have become Prussian. To-day the Rhinefront, from the ridge of the Vosges to the slopes covered by the Black Forest, is German once more, and the frontier of France has been removed twenty miles farther back. New-Breisach, Colmar, Schlestadt, Mulhausen, and Belfort will each and all probably be occupied ere many weeks are over, and two departments will have been torn, perhaps forever, from the heritage of the new republic. On the 13th August the formal investment of Strasburg was commenced; on the 27th September it fell. The real brunt of the attack lasted for about four weeks. The garrison was taken unprepared, for the infatuated confidence of the Imperial Government rendered them more desirous to provide a siege train to operate against Cologne or Mayence, than place their

own citadels in an adequate posture of defense. But what official incompetency left wanting, the courage of a gallant and determined soldier supplied. The magnetic power of a single will transformed the garrison of the Alsatian stronghold into a band of heroes. With supplies too scanty for the wants of its defenders, with defenses too extensive to be manned by the handful of troops that were left behind them, Strasburg has held out till sheer exhaustion could be regarded on no further, and longer resistance would have meant passive slaughter. Strasburg has deserved well of France, truly, for it has held up before a panic-stricken and cowering populace an example of heroic devotion which has done more to kindle the patriotic fervor that seems now to be spreading over her western provinces, than any other event of a most eventful struggle. General Ulrich has been of more service to his country than an army corps, and he will find an honored place in the roll of her heroes.

A few days later than the first German advance upon Strasburg occurred the series of battles which ended in the isolation of Metz, and the separation of the two main divisions of the French army. Just as the citadel by the Rhine commanded Alsace, the great fortress on the Moselle is the dominating point of Lorraine. While one of the threatened provinces is gone, the other thus remains in dispute. Metz has as yet experienced none of the horrors of a pitiless bombardment, but it has evidently been brought face to face with famine, and has been to some extent decimated by pestilence. Yet sortie after sortie has been made by the starving and demoralized troops of Bazaine, and an sufficient number of the enemy are kept idly watching the guns of the fortress to present a vindication of the use of strong places for national defense and preservation. How long Metz may hold out will probably depend upon the time that the garrison and inhabitants can eke out a scanty subsistence from everything that can possibly stand in the place of food. With the surrounding country thoroughly cleared of all that can contribute to the sustenance of man and beast, and with every avenue of obtaining supplies effectually cut off by the enemy, it is highly improbable that the capitulation of Metz can be much longer delayed.

If the news of the Provisional Government suppressing the fact of the surrender of Strasburg be correct, it is a circumstance greatly to be regretted. The crowning sin of the ex-Government was, that it did not dare to tell the people the truth. It is of the very essence of the new regime that it should conceal neither danger nor disaster. The State is no longer the dynasty. It has become in fact what it is in theory—the people. If the French nation are to be unmaned by misfortune, and are unfit to be trusted with the true aspect of their own destinies, then their patent of self-government lacks confirmation, and the future is as desolate of promise as the past was of performance. If the news can reach Paris that the independence of the country rests more than ever upon her shoulders, it should be sent there with all despatch. The capital has, up till this time, shown itself worthy of the supreme crisis through which the nation is passing. A fresh calamity ought only to nerve its purpose to a more resolute pitch, and should awaken that old republican fervor which never yet failed to make a people, risen up in its might, terrible in its energy and invincible in its resolves.

RUSSIAN DESIGNS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There is little doubt that the army of Russia has been lately placed on a war footing, and that all its great military strength, 1,135,975 men in the aggregate, has been called into the field. There have been many indications of the movement and mobilization of the troops; and there is no reason, therefore, to disbelieve the telegraphic assurance which now reaches us of military preparations on a gigantic scale. Naturally, these demonstrations throw Europe into a terrible state of excitement, the English consuls suffer, and the bourses of every other nation are affected by it. With us curiosity, if not interest, at once prompts us to inquire into the purpose of the Czar. Does he contemplate a descent upon Constantinople, or intervention in behalf of France?

Thus far nothing is developed to show his design; we only know that it must be one of these two purposes which the Czar has in view. We lay no stress upon the minor facts quoted by the English press to show that while Bismarck has been busy in France as Gortschakoff was intriguing with Austria and paying flattering and seductive attentions to Saxony, with the evident design of detaching them from their alliance and sympathy with Germany. The suggestion of the English papers that it is Prussia whom the Czar threatens, is doubtless born of English wishes or English fears; for that commercial nation would much prefer to see Russia destroying in Protestant Germany than aggrandizing in Mohammedan Turkey. It is the theory of England's statesmen, born of a period when her policy was aggressive, that the Turkish Empire is the great defense of the British possessions in India, and that once past that barrier Russia would dominate all Asia. We suspect this fear is well founded. Its existence only strengthens the reasoning which points to Turkey as the Russian objective. An alliance with Austria, in the event of a movement toward Turkey, would be a very natural step for Russia to take, since she would desire to protect her flank in that direction. The statement quoted elsewhere which fore-shadows an Austrian and Russian alliance indicates nothing to the point there under consideration: such an alliance is as likely to be made against Turkey as against Germany.

A consideration of the motives likely to influence Russia will afford a safer guide in this matter than the mere surface indications of the moment. Russia has much to tempt her towards the Orient; absolutely nothing to drive her towards Germany. She has the immediate hope of aggrandizement in the East to attract her there; she has only the fear of future and remote complications to urge her to strike at Germany. With France paralyzed, Austria powerless, England undecided, and Germany powerless, Turkey is comparatively a weak enemy, hardly capable of making against Russia a defense more vigorous than that which France made against Germany. Germany, on the contrary, is the most powerful and the best prepared enemy whom Russia could select in all Europe. A war against Turkey is likely to make Russia no active enemies in the West, for England without France or Austria could not hope to aid the Sultan. A war against Prussia would probably bring about an alliance between the German-speaking nations, Italy, and England. One campaign inaugurates a general European war; the other can be restricted to narrow limits.

It was apparent from the first, when Gortschakoff promised Bismarck to protect his rear, that Russia meant to seize the opportunity for war if the success of the Germans justified it. If she wished to aid France she would have done so when France was strong.

But there was no desire to help the nation which of all others most actively barred the Russian advance to the Bosphorus. It is a significant fact that the preparations of Russia did not begin until the power of France was hopelessly broken. It has never been the policy of Russia to rush, with knight-errant-like fervor, to the aid of distressed nations; her aim has been rather to seize those weakened empires exposed to her rapacious grasp. Turkey is the next victim.

THE QUEEN'S MISTAKE.

From the N. Y. Sun. Queen Victoria has aimed another blow at the stability of her throne by yielding to the clamor of Lord Granville and the privileged classes of England. To please them she not only gives the cold shoulder to the French republic, but aggravates that offense by continuing to recognize Eugenie Montijo as the Empress of the French, notwithstanding her and her husband's deposition by the French Legislature. The Queen has done this by addressing an official letter of condolence to Eugenie, directed to Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of the French, at Hastings. It is possible that the Queen would not have taken this step if her daughter, the Crown Princess of Prussia, had not intimated to her that Napoleon continues to be treated by the King as the lawful ruler of France, and that consequently her Majesty's acknowledgment of his continued sovereignty by recognizing the imperial title of Eugenie would give great satisfaction to the court of Berlin.

This is a very grave responsibility to take, both for King William and Queen Victoria. The one acts in defiance of the liberal sentiments of the German people, and the other in flagrant violation of the public opinion of England. Meanwhile, Louis Napoleon is in active communication with Eugenie and Gramont in England, with Princess Mathilde and Benedetti in Belgium, as well as directly with the authorities at Berlin. Should this strange infatuation of King William take a more substantial shape, should Queen Victoria also be held guilty by her people of concurring with the fallen empire against the struggling republic—popular commotions will be sure to rebuke the folly of both sovereigns. In Germany the outbreaks may be stopped for a time by the military exigencies of the country; but in England it is very possible that they may result in a formidable revolution.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

U N I O N R E P U B L I C A N T I C K E T.

J U D I C I A R Y.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS EDWARD M. PAXSON. THOMAS K. FINLETTER.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT: JAMES LYND.

C O U N T Y.

SHERIFF: WILLIAM R. LEEDS.

REGISTER OF WILLS: WILLIAM M. BUNN, Late private 72d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer.

CLERK OF THE ORPHANS' COURT: SERGEANT JOSEPH C. TITTMARY.

C I T Y.

RECEIVER OF TAXES: ROBERT H. BEATTY.

CITY COMMISSIONER: CAPTAIN JAMES BAIN.

C O N G R E S S I O N A L.

1st District—BENJAMIN HUCKEL.

2d " HON. CHARLES O'NEILL.

3d " HON. LEONARD MYERS.

4th " HON. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.

5th " ALFRED C. HARMER.

S E N A T O R T H I R D D I S T R I C T.

BENJAMIN W. THOMAS.

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2d " WILLIAM H. STEVENSON.

3d " WILLIAM KELLEY.

4th " WILLIAM ELLIOTT.

5th " WILLIAM DUFFY.

6th " COL. CHARLES KLECKNER.

7th " ROBERT JOHNSON.

8th " WILLIAM L. MARSHALL.

9th " WILLIAM H. PORTER.

10th " JOHN E. REYBURN.

11th " SAMUEL M. HAGER.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

GRAND MASS MEETING!

THE CONSTITUTION AS IT IS!

HONESTY. ECONOMY.

"AS GOES MAINE SO GOES PENNSYLVANIA."

THE REPUBLICAN CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA, THE FRIENDS OF OUR NATIONAL AND STATE ADMINISTRATIONS,

and who have sympathized with them in

MAINTAINING THE UNION

and in settling

FAIRLY AND PERMANENTLY

the questions which threatened its destruction, and all who

ACQUIESE IN THEIR SETTLEMENT

as necessary to the

PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY,

and to the

AVOIDANCE OF FURTHER CONFUSION AND TURMOIL,

WILL MEET IN

MASS MEETING

AT

BROAD AND MARKET STREETS,

ON

SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 1,

to seek means to insure

SUCCESS AT THE APPROACHING ELECTION,

TO PROVIDE AGAINST FRAUD,

and to announce and discuss the measures which the

GREAT REPUBLICAN PARTY,

HAVING SETTLED RECONSTRUCTION,

now propose for fostering the

BUSINESS INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY,

for the

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY,

for the

REDUCTION OF TAXATION

and a simultaneous

REDUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEBT,

for securing a

SOUND BUT PLENTIFUL CURRENCY,

and an eventual

SAFE RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS,

and for effecting a thorough

REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE,

THAT

ECONOMY AND INTEGRITY

shall supersede

EXTRAVAGANCE AND FRAUD

in every Department of Government.

LET THIS MEETING BE AN OVERWHELMING ONE!

Let our citizens show by their presence that they disapprove all

WRANGLING ABOUT RECONSTRUCTION,

now that it is a

FIXED FACT,

and when our

MATERIAL INTERESTS DEMAND ATTENTION!

ALL ARE INVITED TO LABOR FOR THE GOOD OF ALL!

NATIVE AND ADOPTED CITIZENS,

THE RICH AND THE POOR,

THE CAPITALIST AND THE ARTISAN,

THE MERCHANT AND THE MECHANIC,

THE MANUFACTURER, THE LABORER, AND THE PROFESSIONAL MAN, ARE ALL INTERESTED!

Let all come and strive for the general welfare.

LET THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE.

The following distinguished and eloquent speakers will address the meeting:—

Hon. J. A. J. CRESWELL, Postmaster-General United States.

Hon. JOS. H. HAWLEY, ex-Governor of Connecticut.

Hon. JOHN SCOTT, U. S. Senator.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, U. S. Senator.

Hon. JOHN W. GEARY, Governor of Pennsylvania.

Hon. H. BUCHER SWOPE.

Hon. JOHN W. FORNEY.

Hon. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.

Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL.

Hon. LEONARD MYERS.

Hon. HENRY D. MOORE.

Hon. JOHN COVODE, Chairman State Central Committee.

Hon. JAMES POLLOCK, ex-Governor of Pennsylvania.

General HENRY H. BINGHAM.

Hon. MORTON MCMICHAEL.

BENJAMIN HUCKEL, Esq.

ALFRED C. HARMER, Esq.

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General JOSHUA T. OWEN.

Colonel WILLIAM B. MANN.

General HORATIO G. SICKEL.

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